
THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN

STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

JANUARY, 1903.



BOSTON :

WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,
18 POST OFFICE SQUARE.
1903.



BROOK IN WESTERLY PART OF RESERVATION.

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OFFICERS.

Commissioners.

A. C. BULLOCK. HAROLD PARKER.
THEO. L. HARLOW.

Superintendent.

GUY H. CHASE.
Address, Princeton, Mass.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS.

By reference to the second annual report of the commissioners, it will be seen that at that time there remained unpaid for 307.9 acres taken for reservation purposes. We have now to report that payment has been made for the same, with the single exception of a small parcel of 3.5 acres, sufficient funds for which are in the hands of the commissioners. In addition to the above, we have acquired, by Taking No. 7, 1.03 acres, purchased of S. R. Heywood, trustee, making the area of the reservation at the present time 1,381.36 acres.

By the act of 1901, granting \$25,000 for the purpose of enlarging the reservation and improving the roadway thereon, the area has been very materially increased, and the boundaries improved by being brought as far as possible to the line of the main county road leading from Westminster to Princeton. Notwithstanding, however, that the said appropriation has been as judiciously expended as possible, and that the additional properties secured for the State have been at reasonable cost, there still remain other parcels of land, lying between the present reservation boundaries and the aforementioned county road, which the appropriation would not admit of acquiring, but which, in the opinion of your commissioners, should be secured by the State while it may be done at a reasonable cost. For this purpose we would respectfully petition for a further appropriation of \$15,000 to enable the commissioners to secure the few remaining properties which are so desirable and essential.

During the year considerable progress has been made in the direction of improving the mountain road at the Ox Bow, details of which will be found in the report of the superintendent, annexed hereto.

A deer park, embracing about 5 acres, has been enclosed, and contains at the present time six deer and one elk, all of which are in a thriving condition. It is contemplated enlarging this park very considerably during the present year, and fencing material is already upon the reservation sufficient to encompass eventually an area of at least 300 acres.

Active steps are being taken toward the erection of a cable road to the summit of the mountain, and it is hoped that such a road will be in operation in season to accommodate the summer visitors of the present year.

The reservation has been much improved since the last report, and was visited during the season of 1902 by a larger number than ever before in its history. The mountain road is in excellent condition, arrangements for visitors are convenient, and protection is afforded them by competent and courteous park officers. The present year should show still further improvements in every direction.

Appended to this will be found the report of the superintendent, who has shown a commendable zeal in putting the reservation into the best possible condition, so far as the county appropriation would admit. The financial report, showing disbursements during the year, will also be found appended.

Respectfully submitted,

A. G. BULLOCK,
HAROLD PARKER,
THEO. L. HARLOW,
Commissioners.



ROAD TO THE SUMMIT.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT.

PRINCETON, MASS., Jan. 1, 1903.

To the Wachusett Mountain State Reservation Commission.

GENTLEMEN : — I submit herewith my third annual report, accompanied by map and photographs.

The routine work has been fully set forth in my regular monthly reports to the commission.

Since the date of the last report all land damages have been settled, excepting a small parcel of land taken from the heirs of George Smith, situated on the northerly part of the reservation, in the town of Westminster, and the settlement of that claim is progressing as fast as the circumstances will allow.

We have made one taking, No. 7, in the past year, consisting of a small parcel of land on the north-easterly side of the reservation, adjacent to the highway, and containing 1.03 acres of land, purchased from S. R. Heywood, trustee. This last taking now makes the total area of the reservation 1,381.36 acres.

The cellar to the new headquarters, office and residence of the superintendent has been excavated, and the material used for grading in the vicinity of the new house. The foundation wall, piers and the first floor of the house have been laid. The sills and first floor were laid in the late fall, in order to protect the foundation from the elements in winter.

An addition to the barn has been built, for the purpose of a covering to carts, wagons and sleds when not in use, and to provide more stall room for horses.

In the early spring the deer that were purchased from Mr. Benson were temporarily housed in the lintel of a near-by

barn until the completion of the deer fence; and, as there was some delay in getting the fence from the factory, and afterwards in erecting the same, and as the deer were bought some time before the work could be begun on the fence, the long, close confinement had an ill effect upon them which caused the death of one of the deer.

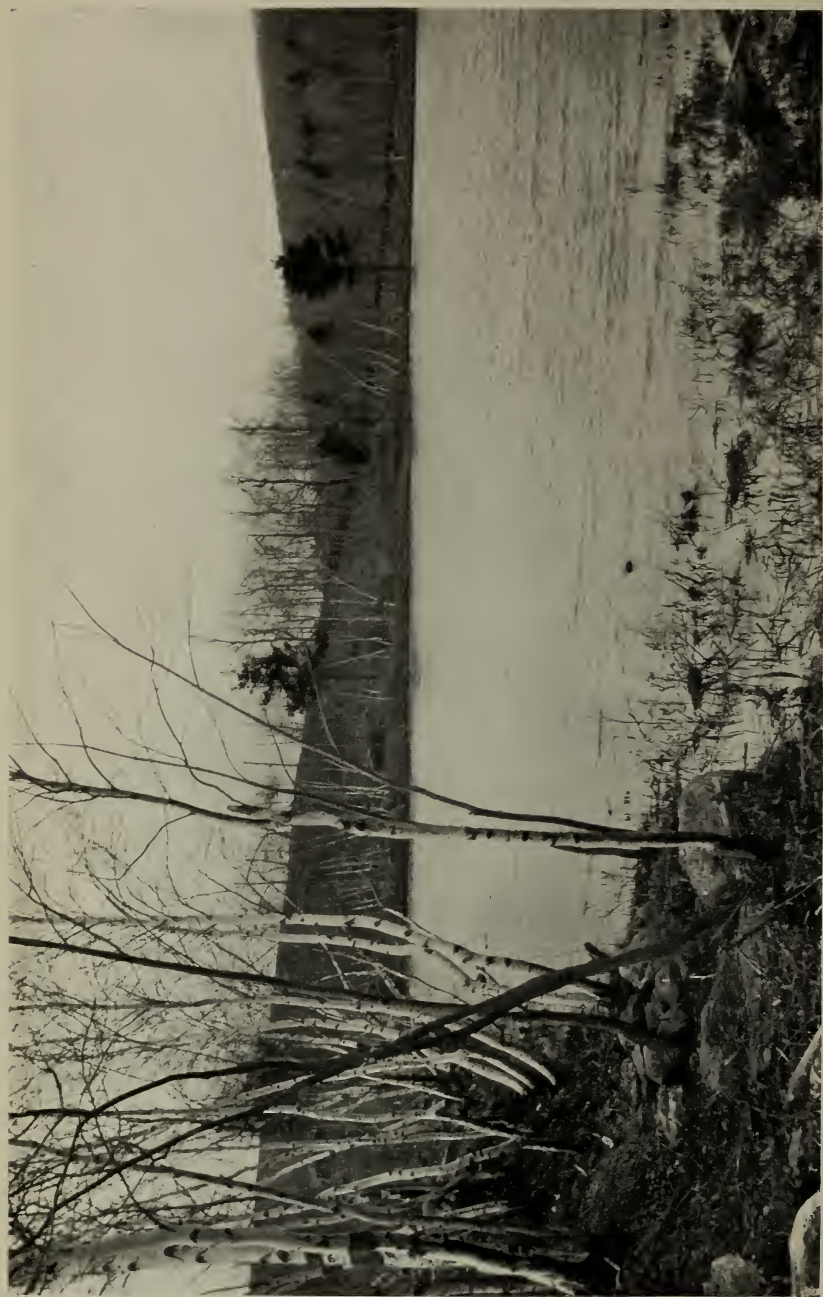
The fence, which is electrically welded wire, is manufactured by the Clinton Wire Cloth Company of Clinton, and has thus far proved to be an excellent fence for the purpose. The posts are of chestnut and oak, and were cut upon the reservation, and spaced 12 feet apart. The fence is 7 feet high, except where the inequalities of the surface of the ground necessitated the building of a rough wall underneath, where in some places it is fully 10 feet high.

After turning the deer and elk out they improved very much in condition and appearance, and are now in fine condition.

Two deer were purchased in October, and one doe has been captured on the reservation. There are many deer in this locality, and I have no doubt we may secure more, permission to do so having been obtained from the Commissioners on Fisheries and Game. We are getting out of the woods a large number of posts for the enlargement of the deer park, and in the spring we shall enclose another large area; as the herd increases, the area will also be increased, and at all times the animals will have abundant grazing and running ground, and will be, to all appearance, practically running wild. We have about 4 miles of fence on hand, including what has been erected, all of which will be needed for main and cross fences.

Some work has been done toward easing the grade on the mountain road at the Ox Bow, so called; a double box stone culvert for carrying away the waters in the spring of the year is nearly completed, and a large part of the new location has been cut or filled to the proposed sub-grade. This work will be pushed in the spring, in an effort to have the new location ready for use the coming summer.

In all places where the boundary lines are not defined by fences or walls a wide swath has been cut, showing plainly



ECHO LAKE.

the lines of the reservation, which are posted conspicuously in all places.

Stone monuments have been set at all angles in the lines of the reservation, a total of 70 having been set.

One hundred and forty bench marks have been established at different points by precise levelling, for use in the topographic survey, which is made on the telemeter system with excellent results; and the work is progressing favorably, about one-third of the reservation having been covered thus far. The contour interval is 5 feet, and shows very plainly the topographic features of the mountain.

When the survey is completed, or far enough advanced to warrant doing so, I would suggest that some driving roads or bridle paths be laid out and built over different portions of the reservation.

The observatory map has been completed, and 500 lithograph copies placed on sale in the observatory, at a price of 75 cents each. This map has proven very accurate and instructive to visitors, and many have availed themselves of the opportunity of purchasing copies.

The receipts from the observatory were in excess of the preceding year, as was also the attendance upon the mountain.

With the advent of the proposed railroad to the summit of the mountain we may expect an exceedingly large increase in the number of visitors; and some provision ought to be made for a material improvement in the hotel and out-buildings on the summit, to accommodate the large number that will take advantage of such means of reaching the summit. Sanitary arrangements should be provided, also a supply of pure water obtained at the summit, to obviate the necessity of carting it to the summit from below.

Mr. Alley L. Harrington leased the hotel the past season, and provided excellent accommodation for the public.

The ice house on the summit has been filled, and Mr. Charles U. Hubbard has been granted the exclusive privilege of cutting ice upon Echo Lake for a term of seven years, for certain considerations favorable to the commission.

Notwithstanding the fact that the last appropriation from

the General Court was considered sufficient to buy all the land needed to enlarge the reservation, I think it would be well to acquire certain properties, which are shown upon a map herewith submitted, for the following reasons: first, because the land ought properly to be included in the reservation, and may be bought for a much lower figure now than it may be later; second, the purchase of said properties will eliminate certain easements and water rights that it might become necessary later on to acquire; third, upon some of the lands are situated farmhouses which could be rented to workmen on the reservation, thus enabling them to live near the work. This is of importance, as now the workmen are obliged to travel long distances to get to the work. Furthermore, some of the land will yield a supply of hay for the animals, while other parcels are needed to round out the lines of the reservation.

An appropriation of \$15,000 will, in my judgment, be sufficient to cover all the damages for the land required.

As we are progressing favorably with our enclosure fences, I would suggest the purchase, in the spring, of more deer and other animals.

I append hereto an inventory of tools and equipment, excepting an inventory of the hotel furnishings, which is on file.

Respectfully submitted,

GUY H. CHASE,

Superintendent.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

RECEIPTS.

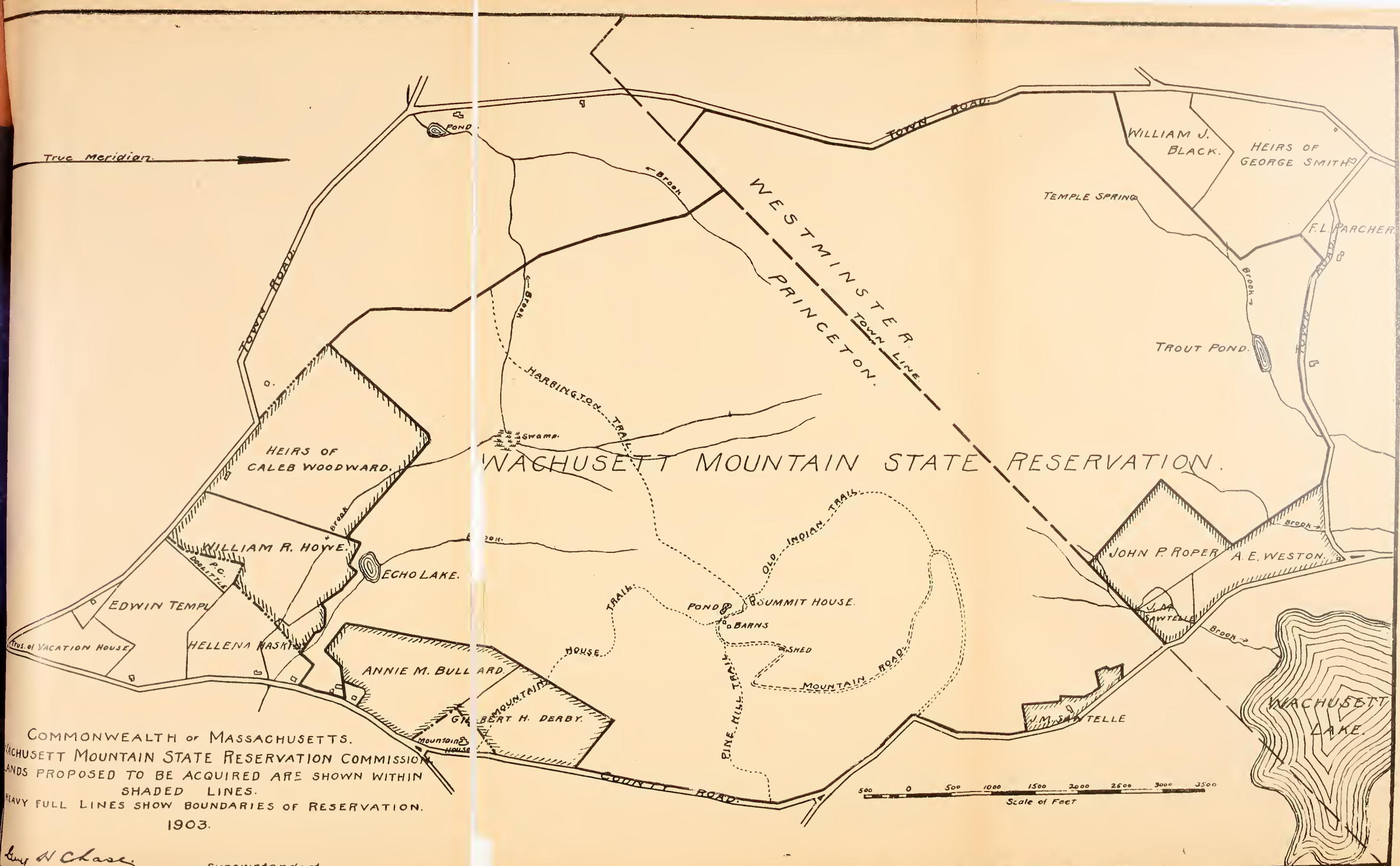
Balance Jan. 1, 1902,	\$11,588 61	
Mary N. Bolton (returned),	100 00	
	<hr/>	\$11,688 61

DISBURSEMENTS. .

Real estate,	\$7,898 30	
Legal,	1,016 74	
General,	77 50	
Improvements,	54 00	
Balance on hand Jan. 1, 1903,	2,642 07	
	<hr/>	\$11,688 61

PRINCETON, MASS., Jan. 1, 1903.





COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.
WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.
LANDS PROPOSED TO BE ACQUIRED ARE SHOWN WITHIN
SHADED LINES.
HEAVY FULL LINES SHOW BOUNDARIES OF RESERVATION.
1903.

L. W. Chase,
Superintendent.